



Accomplishments:

- *MOVES Task Force created to transition to new mobile model.*
- *AQPAC membership restructured, mission includes climate change.*
- *EPA approves clean data determination and designates region in attainment for fine particles.*
- *MWAQC commented to EPA on its GHG Endangerment Finding, proposed Renewable Fuels Standard and proposed NO2 NAAQS.*

MWAQC 2009 Annual Report

Most Improved Air Quality in Over a Decade

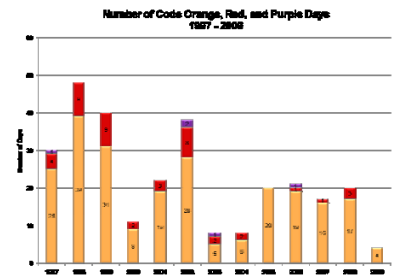
Preliminary data for 2009 shows there was less pollution from ozone this year than at any time in the last decade.

"On behalf of those of us who have been working for cleaner air, it is gratifying to see that programs implemented five years ago are finally showing results – though it is critical that we do not rest on our laurels," said District of Columbia Councilmember At-Large Phil Mendelson, who serves as MWAQC Chairman. "We must not pause in our drive to have cleaner, healthier air to breathe."

From May through September, there were only four days when ozone pollution reached Code Orange, unhealthy for sensitive groups levels. No Code Red days were observed this year. This compares with 17 such days in 2008 along with three additional days that reached Code Red levels.

Air quality improved this year even though the EPA had set new, more stringent limits for the area's ozone pollution. MWAQC officials said this year's air quality improvements re-

sulted from actions taken over the last five to ten years to reduce emissions from vehicles and power plants, local government programs to increase ridership on public transit and buy energy from renewable sources, and milder than normal weather conditions.



The New AQPAC

In the fall of 2008 an MWAQC/AQPAC Review Committee proposed changes designed to revitalize the membership of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), and to expand MWAQC's outreach into the community. MWAQC approved new bylaws for the AQPAC that added climate change to its mission and established terms of one to three years for individual members.

Twenty-six people from

around the region applied for membership during the fall recruitment. In January, MWAQC appointed eighteen new and returning members, five from each state. Deron Lovaas was elected Chair and Dr. Larry Zaragoza was elected Vice Chair.

Members come from a variety of related backgrounds, working for Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Environmental Protection, and clean energy companies. There are health advocates and other interested citizens

among the new members.

This year, AQPAC weighed in on climate change issues to the new Climate Energy Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and on air quality issues to MWAQC. AQPAC also advised on stakeholder categories for CEEPC, recommended language to EPA regarding the new NO2 standard and the issue of roadside monitoring. AQPAC also discussed the importance of air quality monitors in Fairfax County.



MWAQC 2009 Annual Report

December 2009

Air quality improved this year, however EPA is considering adopting a stricter standard for ozone.

EPA announced that the ozone standard adopted in 2008 (75 ppb) may be revised. A decision will be announced next year.

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					40	40
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
42	41	38	33	36	53	48
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	41	55	62	45	56	37
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
44	50	57	66	73	72	51
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
41	46	41	27	36	46	58
31						
58						

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	56	70	72	43	43	48
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
60	85	57	63	45	56	61
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
58	60	47	36	49	67	45
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
43	44	59	59	76	78	56
28	29	30				
39	56	55				

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			59	46	41	47
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
41	68	59	53	52	64	52
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
54	66	57	72	65	49	49
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
55	56	67	60	43	61	61
26	27	28	29	30	31	
53	64	61	43	59	36	

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
						46
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	69	59	63	45	53	64
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
57	58	67	65	66	68	69
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
70	72	67	43	54	41	39
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
57	59	70	68	80	45	37
30	31					
53	32					

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		45	57	64	70	66
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
59	30	39	45	35	27	24
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
45	52	55	41	24	40	44
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
63	53	33	50	52	27	28
27	28	29	30			
41	44	30	22			

Non-Road Diesel Engine Retrofit Project

In late 2008, COG received an EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant to reduce emissions from non-road diesel engines in construction and material handling operations. COG partnered with the Maryland Highway Contractors Association, Maryland Dept. of Environment and three equipment owners and operators on the project. Diesel control technologies such as diesel particulate filters and engine

upgrades, reduce harmful emissions from older diesel engines. COG contracted with Alban Tractor Company to install diesel particulate filters and perform engine upgrades on the construction equipment. Alban Tractor completed two diesel particulate filter installations and three engine upgrades.

The diesel retrofits in the project will reduce annual NOx and fine particle emissions in

the region, improving the health of residents and helping contribute to reductions needed to meet the ozone and fine particle standards.

The project will be completed in September 2010.



Fine Particles - Data Shows Attainment

In 2009, MWAQC submitted a Clean Data Request for the 1997 annual PM2.5 standard. In January, EPA finalized the Clean Data determination and designated the metropolitan Washington region in attainment of the 2006 daily fine particle standard.

In July 2008, EPA proposed to designate Montgomery County

and Prince George's County as part of the Baltimore nonattainment area for fine particles. MWAQC signed a joint comment letter with TPB and the COG Board of Directors to EPA providing detailed data analysis opposing the EPA proposal. Ultimately EPA agreed with the MWAQC/TPB/COG position and as a result,

neither the Washington region nor the Baltimore region was designated as nonattainment, due to observed improvement in air quality.

EPA will issue guidance on preparing a Maintenance Plan for fine particles. A Maintenance Plan will be prepared for continued compliance with the fine particle standards.

Looking Ahead to 2010

There are several significant regulatory developments anticipated in 2010.

- EPA will issue a replacement rule for the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR).
- New regulatory requirements, including developing programs, to comply with proposed new standards for NO2 and lead.
- Mandatory reporting of greenhouse gases.

COG will manage a Diesel Anti-Idling Campaign for the District and Maryland. The campaign will seek to reduce diesel emissions from trucks and buses.

COG has formed a MOVES Task Force, an effort between COG Department of Transportation Planning and MWAQC staff, to transition to the new mobile model. EPA intends to release their new Motor Vehi-

cle Emission Simulator (MOVES) model in early 2010.

In March 2010, COG will prepare a report on progress in meeting the region's local government voluntary commitments. Some examples of voluntary commitments include wind power purchases, energy efficiency and green building programs, urban heat island programs, and LED traffic signals.

